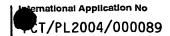
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT



CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER PC 7 F16B21/08 F16B F16B15/06 F16B19/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) F16B IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category ° 1,2,4,5, US 5 800 109 A (CARRUTHERS ET AL) X 7.18-20 1 September 1998 (1998-09-01) figures 1-5 1,2,4, US 5 306 098 A (LEWIS ET AL) X 18-20 26 April 1994 (1994-04-26) the whole document 1,2,5,7 US 4 381 633 A (MACLEOD ET AL) X 3 May 1983 (1983-05-03) figures 1-11 1,2,8,10 US 4 395 174 A (FREEMAN ET AL) X 26 July 1983 (1983-07-26) the whole document 1-4.9US 5 907 891 A (MEYER ET AL) X 1 June 1999 (1999-06-01) figures 1,2 Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "E" earlier document but published on or after the International filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is clied to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means: *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 01/02/2005 26 January 2005 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Huusom, C Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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